

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

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d.T 6/11/04. (previously presented) A method for preparing a hand-held snack item, said method comprising:

- (a) applying a first edible, heat-sensitive food material to an initial formed hand-held food item that is a grain cake, thereby forming a preliminary coated hand-held food item;
- (b) applying a second edible food coating material to said preliminary coated hand-held food item, thereby forming a secondary coated hand-held food item, wherein said second edible food material is applied to said preliminary coated hand-held food item in such a manner as to substantially completely coat said first edible, heat-sensitive food material, and wherein said second edible food material is selected from a material which possesses sufficient physical characteristics to act as a protective medium for said first edible, heat-sensitive food material when said secondary coated hand-held food item is subjected to a temperature in the range of from about 35°C to about 350°C for a period of time in the range of from about 10 hours to about 30 seconds; and
- (c) subjecting said secondary coated hand-held food item to a temperature in the range of from about 35°C to about 350°C for a period of time in the range of from about 10 hours to about 30 seconds, thereby producing a final, coated hand-held snack item wherein said first edible, heat-sensitive food material is substantially intact.

Claims 2-38 (canceled)